



State Educational Technology Directors Association

December 19, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**COMMENTS ON TWO PETITIONS FOR FURTHER WAIVER OF COMMISSION RULES
TO EXTEND RELIEF PROVIDED IN FCC 05-178 TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED SCHOOLS
AND LIBRARIES IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND TEXAS**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) submits these comments in response to the Commission's request for comments on two petitions for further waiver of E-rate rules filed by the Hurricane-affected states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. These petitions followed the Commission's issuance of its October 14, 2005 at FCC 05-178 concerning relief measures for the areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. We understand and support the Commission's efforts to provide those affected entities with both immediate monetary relief as well as relief from many pertinent rules and procedures in order to help them rebuild and repair as quickly as possible.

We are writing to support the comments provided by the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA). SECA's comments address several questions as well as providing comments to the petitions. Our members, state educational technology directors from all 50 states, DC and American Samoa, work closely with the E-rate coordinators and are in agreement with the questions and suggestions. The SECA comments address fair and timely relief to the Hurricane-affected states which is warranted and needed, but they also address longer term questions that pertain to all states and look ahead to future disasters and needs. However, SETDA supports treating all victims of natural disasters equally under the commission's current rules.

We also want to state our appreciation for the FCC's actions to address the needs of students and educators in the areas left devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We are in full support of providing relief and aid as needed to these states, districts and schools.

Respectfully submitted,



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